

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PLAINVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE
MONDAY, JANUARY 31, 2022**

Special Meeting Topics: Review of Policies and Regulations for Board of Education Approval

Place and Time: VIRTUAL @ 4:00 PM

Members Present: Chair, Crystal St. Lawrence, Foster White, Deborah Hardy, Ruth Boiczuk, Lori Consalvo, Ex-officio

Members Absent: Tom Arcari

Also Present: David Levenduski, Asst, Superintendent of Schools
Rebecca Martinez, Board Member

Early Departures: None

Chair Crystal St. Lawrence called the special meeting of the Plainville Board of Education to order at 4:09 PM.

The following policies and regulations were up for review and discussion:

Policy & Regulation No.5114	Students: Removal/Suspension/Expulsion—Eliminate and replace with Proposed Policy and Regulation: Student Discipline
Policy No. 5131.6	Students: Alcohol Use, Drug and Tobacco—Eliminate and replace with Proposed Policy: Drug and Alcohol Use by Students
Policy No. 5131.7	Students: Chemical Health Policy for Student Athletes—Update to Current Policy
Policy No. 4430	Personnel: Drugs, Alcohol/Drug Free Workplace, Illicit Drugs and Alcohol—Update Current Policy: Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Free Workplace
Policy No. 1331	Community Relations: Smoking in School Facilities—Eliminate and Replace with Proposed Policy: Prohibition Against Smoking
Policy & Regulation No. 5113	Students: Attendance and Excuses—Eliminate and Replace with Proposed Policy and Regulation: Attendance, Truancy and Chronic Absenteeism

Mr. Levenduski stated that some marijuana laws have recently changed and those changes will now affect various policies and regulations of the district. He also stated that he is now looking at sample policies from Shipman and Goodwin, LLC.

Policy and Regulation No. 5114 Students--Removal/Suspension/Expulsion—REPLACED WITH NEW POLICY AND REGULATION, STUDENT DISCIPLINE:

On and after January 1, 2022, policies adopted in conformity with Connecticut General Statute No. 10-154a concerning the use, sale or possession of alcohol or controlled drugs by students on school property shall not result in a student facing greater discipline, punishment, or sanction for the use, sale or possession of cannabis than they would face for the use, sale or possession of alcohol. Also, revised references to “remote learning” to reflect new definition in Public Act 21-46, and the definition of “bullying” to conform to new statutory definition in Public Act No. 19-166. Also, it has been clarified throughout the policy that the provisions of the policy extend to students while on school transportation, as it is a school-sponsored activity.

Policy No. 5131.6 Students—Alcohol Use, Drugs and Tobacco—REPLACED WITH NEW POLICY, DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE BY STUDENTS:

On or after January 1, 2022, policies adopted in conformity with Connecticut General Statute No 10-154a concerning the use, sale or possession of alcohol or controlled drugs by students on school property shall not result in a student facing greater discipline, punishment, or sanction for the use, sale or possession of cannabis that they would face for the use, sale or possession of alcohol.

Policy No. 5131.7—Students—Chemical Health Policy and Student Athletes—UPDATE CURRENT POLICY, CHEMICAL HEALTH POLICY FOR STUDENT ATHLETES:

On and after January 1, 2022, policies adopted in conformity with Connecticut General Statutes No. 10-154a concerning the use, sale or possession of alcohol or controlled drugs by students on school property shall not result in a student facing greater discipline, punishment, or sanction for the use, sale or possession of cannabis than they would face for the use, sale or possession of alcohol.

Policy No. 4430 Personnel—Drugs, Alcohol/Drug Free Workplace, Illicit Drugs and Alcohol—UPDATE CURRENT POLICY ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND DRUG FREE WORKPLACE:

The law revises the definition of smoke and smoking, clarifies that the prohibition on smoking extends to “any area” of a school building, and extends the prohibition against using an electronic nicotine delivery system or vapor product on school grounds or in a school to also prohibit use of an “electronic cannabis delivery system” in such locations. We further revised the policy to clarify that, while Connecticut law allows for the legal use of marijuana under certain circumstances, because marijuana use is still prohibited under federal law, the use of marijuana as work, or outside of work if it impairs an employee’s ability to perform their job, constitutes a violation of this policy.

Policy No. 1331 Community Relations—Smoking in School Facilities—REPLACED WITH NEW POLICY, PROHIBITION AGAINST SMOKING:

This policy is revised in light of Sections 86 and 87 of the June Special Session, Public Act No. 21-1. The law revises the definition of smoke and smoking, clarifies that the prohibition on smoking extends to “any area” of a school building, and extends in the prohibition against using an electronic nicotine delivery system or vapor product on school grounds or in a school to also prohibit use of an “electronic cannabis delivery system” in such locations.

Policy and Regulation No. 5113 Students—Attendance and Excuses—REPLACED WITH NEW POLICY AND REGULATION, ATTENDANCE, TRUANCY AND CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM:

This policy and accompanying administrative regulations are revised to conform to Section 19 of Public Act No. 21-46, which requires local and regional boards of education to allow any student enrolled in grades Kindergarten through 12 to take two non-consecutive days each school year as mental health wellness days. Section 18 of the Act, as amended by Section 393 of the June Special Session, Public Act No. 21-2, directs the State Board of Education to revise its definitions of “excused absence” and “unexcused absence” with respect to remote learning. We have revised the definitions in the regulations to reflect statutory requirements for those definitions while we await the State Board of Education’s revisions. We further revised the regulations to conform with Section 10 of Public Act No. 21-199, which amends state law to raise, from seventeen to eighteen, the age when a student may withdraw from high school, beginning in the school year commencing July 1, 2023. After July 1, 2023, a parent or person having control of a child who is 17 years of age may withdraw the child from school if the child is enrolled in an adult education program if the parent personally appears at the district office and signs an adult education withdrawal and enrollment form. We have also revised the sample notification regarding student attendance and model forms for district use beginning in the 2023-24 school year in light of the new requirements.

Mrs. Boiczuk asked if the student “mental health days” will be tracked. Mr. Levenduski stated that they will be tracked through the school’s attendance software as they are to be reported to the State.

Mr. Levenduski stated that he has three other policies he will be bringing to the table shortly. The first is a Talented and Gifted policy. Legislation on the subject of Talented and Gifted came out recently. Because of funding and staffing issues in most towns, the TAG programs went away. However, now school districts must have a mechanism to identify talented and gifted students. Once identified, parents/guardians must be notified electrically that their child is recognized as a talented and gifted student. With that said, there is a concern that after identifying the students, there will be no program for them. This is a subject that needs more discussion and will be brought back to the Policy Subcommittee at a later date.

Second, is the subject of Social Media and students. Discussions with teachers have taken place regarding social media being used in certain situations. There are some issues on how to use Social Media with students. Mr. Levenduski stated that there have been recent conversations with the District’s Technology Committee, who will

later define those various uses. Mr. Levenduski is doing more research on the subject and is working with Library Information Teachers who have a good point of view on the subject. They will be working on guidelines and the subject will be brought back to the Policy Subcommittee.

Lastly, the requirements for student recruitment has changed. Representatives from VOAG, Technical schools, magnet schools, post-secondary recruitment and the military now have the right to promote their school or area of interest to Plainville students. In so doing, the district now has to come up with ways to keep Plainville students in Plainville. Students are experiencing the decline of their education when they go to another school and then come back to Plainville. Some students miss a lot and there is no continuity. However, parents can write a letter (annually) asking that their child not speak to certain recruiters. In addition, recruiting sessions cannot disrupt classroom instruction and no non-public schools are eligible to recruit. Mr. Levenduski stated that Plainville is doing a good job bouncing back when it comes to enrollments. Since COVID, students are starting to return to school. He also mentioned that there are many requests throughout the year for students to stay in Plainville Schools when parents are moving out-of-town, which is a credit to the school system. He stated that Seniors are allowed to finish their senior year in Plainville provided the parents can provide transportation to and from school. Also, if a family is moving within three months of the end of school, they may be able to remain in Plainville until the last day of school in certain circumstances.

It was the consensus of the subcommittee to bring all of the aforementioned policies and regulations to the next Board of Education meeting for their first reading on February 14, 2022.

Mr. Levenduski stated that the next Policy Subcommittee meeting will be scheduled in March. More information will follow.

No action was taken at this meeting.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FOSTER WHITE TO ADJOURN THE POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING AT 4:43 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY DEBORAH HARDY. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,



Joan Calistro

Recorder of Minutes